

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 are independent.

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite the limitations of: “...**and wherein** said pipeline registers **are between any two of said clusters with** a dedicated direct signal data signal connection **therebetween**.”

Support for these amendments can be found, at least, on page 4, lines 18-29:

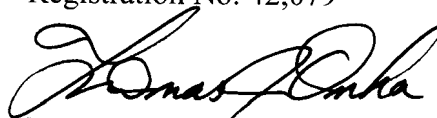
“In Fig. 1 a clustered VLIW architecture with a full point-to-point connectivity topology according to a first embodiment is shown. The architecture includes four clusters, namely clusters A, B, C and D, which are fully connected to each other and an instruction fetch/dispatch unit IFD being connected to each cluster A-D via control connections paths CA-CD. Accordingly, **there is always a dedicated direct data signal connection present between any two clusters with pipeline registers P arranged between each two clusters.** The latency of an inter-cluster transfer of data is always the same for every inter-cluster connection independent of the actual distance between the clusters on the chip. The actual distance on the chip between the clusters A and C, and clusters B and D is considered to be longer than the distance between the clusters A and D, A and B, B and C, as well as C and D. Therefore, a pipeline register P is arranged in the control connection paths CC and CD, in order to pipeline the control signals to remote clusters C, D.” (Emphasis Provided).

Accordingly, and for at least the reasons set forth in above, Applicants respectfully submit that the dedicated direct signal connection between any two clusters is well within the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit the rejection can no longer be sustained.

With regard to claims 2-4 and 6-8, these claims depend from one of the independent claims discussed above, which have been shown to be allowable in view of the cited reference. Accordingly, each of claims 2-4 and 6-8 are also allowable by virtue of its dependence from an allowable base claim.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Onka", written over a horizontal line.

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